GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2885
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2007
AIRPORTS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
Dhumal Prof. Prem Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is huge potential of tourism in Himachal Pradesh and lakhs of foreign tourists visit Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Chamba and Kinnaur towns in Himachal Pradesh each year;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that the air fare to the said towns is comparatively very high because only small planes can land at airports located in Himachal Pradesh which is adversely affecting the tourism in the State;

(c) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the expansion of airstrips and upgradation of the airports in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether the Government is contemplating to bring down the air fare for Himachal Pradesh on the lines of North-Eastern States;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (e), (f) & (g) After the repeal of Air Corporations Act in 1994, the Government do not regulate air fares. Airlines are free to determine fares in their commercial judgment based upon demand, competition, seasonalits etc.

(C) & (d) Airport wise position in respect of the airports in Himachal Pradesh is as under:

(i) Kangra airport- The airport has been upgraded to cater for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft.
(ii) Kullu airport- There is a plan for upgradation of the airport to cater for operation of ATR-72 type of aircraft.
(iii)Shimla airport- Further expansion of the airport does not appear to be feasible due to terrain difficulties.